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Why I grew a Beard

If you know me well, the most obvious explanation would be that I like the way beards look and that I hate shaving. But if you know me very well, you would have learned by now that the explanation is far more surprising, not to say shocking: I grew a beard to deter professors (one in particular) and students at U.C. Davis from mistaking me for a woman.

Now let me make it plain right away that I am not an effeminate man, nor do I have a high-pitched voice. It's true that I do have a pronounced chest-bone (a deformity due to my brittle bone condition) but it in no way resembles a woman's breasts, nor have I ever been mistaken for a woman prior to the

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Why Open a Bank?

incidents at Davis.

I first discovered Professor Hecht's misapprehension one day in my dorm. I spotted him having dinner with the novelist, Herb Gold, who'd come up once a week from San Francisco to teach a class in the American novel which I was interested in taking; so I thought it would be politic "on very American" to introduce myself to the "famous" (our English word for piety") way I had seen Americans introduce themselves to strangers in the movies. Hecht whose class in modern short-story fiction I had already attended on my first day of class, greeted me with worm-like turns to Gold and said "Herb! I want you to meet Chris Hecht, a student of mine. I really like her poetry - you should take a look at

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Mackenzie Davis

Short answer problems

Write your name on every page.

Number your problems.

Show your work.

Circle your answers.

Use complete sentences.

Proofread your work before you turn it in.

Use "formal" (not "text") language.

Use "proper" (not "slang") words.

Use "standard" (not "dialect") words.

Write neatly.

Write clearly.

Write concisely.

Write correctly.

Write completely.

Write accurately.

Write precisely.

Write logically.

Write coherently.

Write consistently.

Write persuasively.

Write effectively.

Write efficiently.

Write elegantly.

Write beautifully.

Write artistically.

Write creatively.

Write originally.

Write uniquely.

Write distinctively.

Write memorably.

Write unforgettably.

Write immortally.

Write eternally.

Write infinitely.

Write universally.

Write globally.

Write locally.

Write personally.

Write individually.

Write collectively.

Write socially.

Write politically.

Write economically.

Write culturally.

Write historically.

Write geographically.

Write scientifically.

Write mathematically.

Write philosophically.

Write theologically.

Write psychologically.

Write sociologically.

Write anthropologically.

Write archaeologically.

Write paleontologically.

Write geologically.

Write meteorologically.

Write astronomically.

Write cosmologically.

Write ontologically.

Write epistemologically.

Write axiologically.

Write aesthetically.

Write ethically.

Write morally.

Write legally.

Write illegally.

Write criminally.

Write civilly.

Write militarily.

Write navally.

Write aerially.

Write spatially.

Write tempor

it some time (I had already given him some of my poems to read as part of my application to Hughs' poetry writing workshop). As he walked out first I thought Hughes' address to "his love" for a "her." But then Hughes went on "She's just arrived from England. Looking back I suppose I should have corrected him right away but I wanted to avoid embarrassment that I was struck dumb. Also I was jetlagged and exhausted after my journey from England and didn't want to waste energy to explore any kind of sentiment connected to him.

The problem, however, I found

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was not confined to Hicks alone.
Later that week a second
incident occurred. I had gotten
a ride to Karl Marx's "poetry
workshop" which was held at his
homestead under cover of darkness.
My ride was with Alan and his
friends Chad and Greg from
here in Hicks' class. I took
my normal wheelchair with
me as it folds up. After I
had gotten into the car, Alan
folded up the chair and put
it in the trunk. "Do me a favor, will ya
and put her/his chair in the
trunk?" Now this was several
years before transgenderism
became a fairly common
phenomenon; I figured Alan
was making his best try every
one both gender at once. He
may have meant simply Karl
Marx's car but being Hicks' star
student that would Hicks' just great.

ground I was too much in shock when Alan says this to have the courage to correct him.

After this incident I became really hard on myself. While adolescent students are developing their sense of self, I was a woman. I told my best friend, Patrick, what had happened. You have to face it. You can't continue to be confronting these emotional issues. If you can't do it, get a woman friend to go out and kill him. Women" he answered me and left at work things.

So I asked my friend Jane Abernathy, also a graduate student from Binghamton to do the job.

She told me that after she had given him his mistake he turned around and had to sit down. "He practically fainted" she said. His drunkenness should have sobered him up and wore off sooner, but really

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there/ facts explain his mistake.
I decided, once Hicks had been
abandoned, I had little ground
to stand on if I continued to
offer Hickses around who
might get the same idea as I
had. That is what Hicks, as is often
the case, saw only my preachiness
and could not handle the "awful"
reality of my complicity.
Hicks is a brilliant man, a warm
and sensitive and academic. He
wisely, could have found a way
to tell me gently that I was
not gay without saying "I could
not enjoy your making it with
your Aunt Roz, your mother, the
great Rose, though women have
always been considered
more relative emotionally, to
men who have been, on the whole, our
greatest Poets?"

I now think of all the things
I am rather proud of in a
perverse way I have put them to
work for it as I have never

Mead

been mistaken for a woman!

Keep studying for success.

Hicks says "Hey, I love
need Chris Heinitt. I read
her poetry. You should take
at it some time ..."
At first I thought I must have misheard
him. Perhaps, because he had food in his
mouth, the "hi" sounded like "her," I
thought. However later in the week
I titled a ride to Karl Wolf's poetry
workshop which was held at Karl's home on the
outskirts of the campus) with one of Hicks'
other students Alan Berger and this time
Chuck. After I had transferred from my
manual chair to the front seat of the car
and Alan had folded the chair he was
to put in the trunk. "Hey, Chuck, do you
a favor and get under this chair
in the trunk, will you?" My condescension
was that though Hicks had referred
to me as a "wheelchair friend" Alan
Alan himself was having to do
at this point and only "using the
"wheelchair" as a ploy to get
was hedging his bets and would
never offend me. Again I
two minutes to correct him.

Mead

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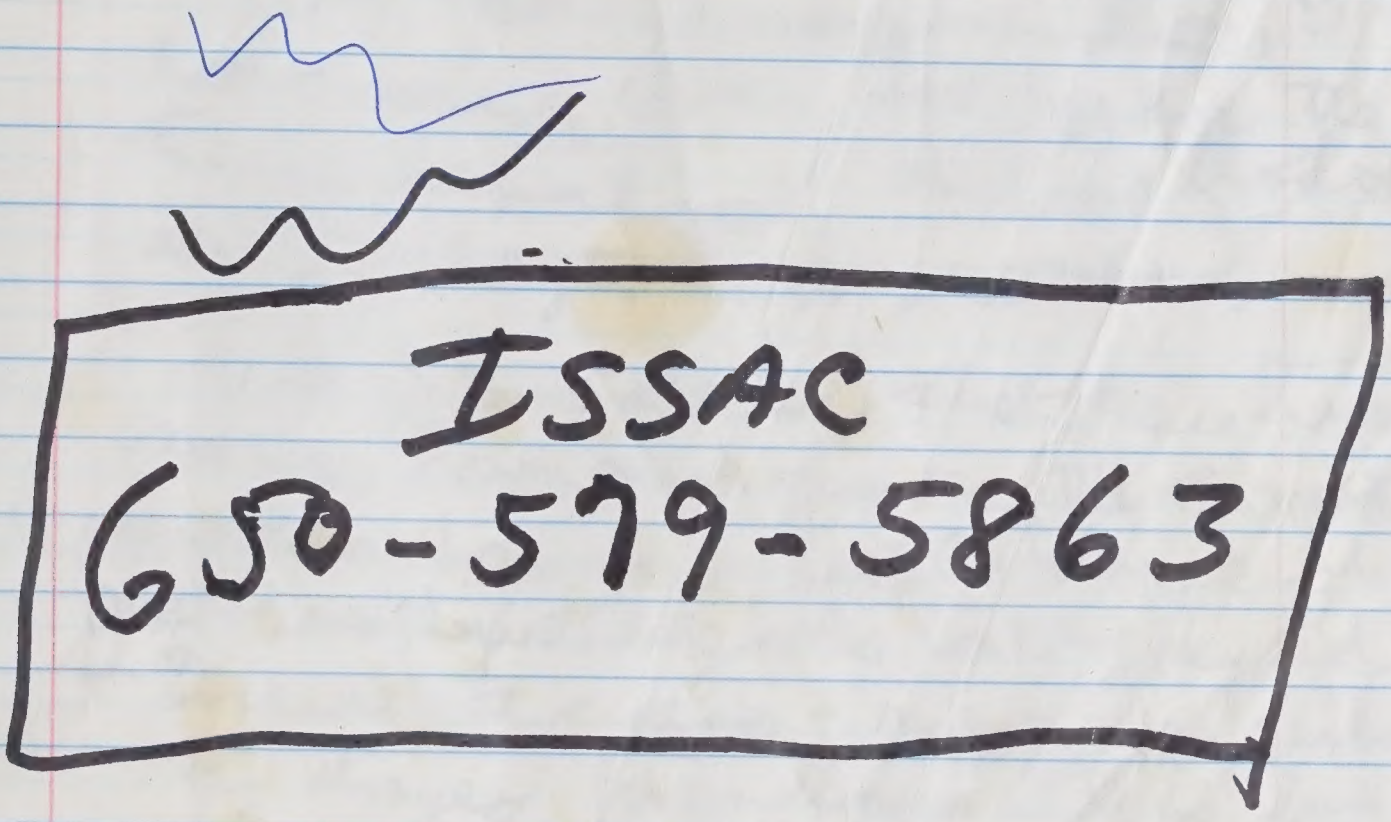
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Allan was hedging his bets by going for both genders — at least he would be fifty percent right. After this [illegible] murder, I became paranoid, thinking that by now the whole English Department, not to mention school boards [illegible] women.

Now I am older, a bit wiser, and somewhat, I am much quicker to correct the misapprehension people have about me especially with regards to my physical appearance — I have been called a "midget," or "little runt," by strangers, bartenders, [illegible] the full range of [illegible] for my [illegible] size. I have the ability to confront, forgive and forget. When all I could do was complain about it to my friend Patrick who suggested I get a female friend, Jane, who was also on a scholarship from Birmingham, to compare notes. This is what Jane told:

"I came straight to the point. I said, 'Professor Hecht, I believe you're under the misapprehension that my friendship with Kathleen Raine, who I'm here to let you know is a very fine [illegible] author, is not based solely on her fame.

MDRV AT work

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Having told my friend Patrick about my dilemma to confront Hicks or not to confront him and Hicks, his advice was to ask a female friend to ~~break the~~ reveal my real gender to Hicks. "Women are better at that kind of thing" Patrick advised me wisely.

And so I asked my friend Jane Thornbrook, a biology student also on an exchange scholarship from Birmingham University, ~~to do the~~ to help me with the laundry task.

And so she did. She told me that Hicks turned when on shoot to sit down, almost fell down, in his chair, thanked her coldly for informing him of the news and shown her to the door.

Immediately after this, I began to let my beard grow. I'd always hated shaving anyway and, though straggly at first I now have a full beard and have not been mistaken for a woman since.

I may not be the brightest thing on wheels, and have been dubbed a "heedless lady" occasionally by friends (even when I was acting like a spoiled "princess" but then they were only teasing and I have even laughed along with them saying "You got that right!"

Quest: Hicks drinks too much and wears glasses but is more than meets the eye. My only concern is that like Lady Astor-Bodas Yoko he sees the wheelchair not me. This I worry can also be an obstruction for closure and therefore, I found out, another Chris, a Christine Plarge who was an English major from France and presently has a French accent now.

he couldn't possibly have mistaken my then strong English accent for hers.

Now Hicks drank more than he should at this time and wore glasses but neither of these facts explain his mistaking my gender.

My only explanation for his alarming error is that, like many others, he saw the wheelchair and not me. Maybe he was trying to look like my grandmother who, when I was a child in rehabilitation for refused to look at the children with deformed or missing limbs during TV shows or mothers 'heavy' talking the day

Mead

Terry LaPorte 800 735 3425 — Reading Lauer

Why I grew a Beard

The most immediate answer would be that I hate Movy and like the way he looks best.

In fact I grew a beard out of urgent necessity to deliver a professor of mine at U.C. Davis from mistaking me for a co-ed.

Now let me make it plain right away that I am not an effeminate gay man, do not have a female affect or a high-falsetto voice. It's true I had long hair (this was in 1974) and have a pronounced chest bone area (formerly due to my brittle bone condition) but there is no way my character could be mistaken for a woman's breasts, nor has I ever been mistaken for a woman before.

I first encountered Professor Hicks' name/presence one night at dinner in my dorm. He was the faculty advisor to the Honors Club who came to [illegible] once a week to lead a class on the Modern American Novel. Other Dorm residents in the dining room I went over to their table and introduced myself

Jeremy Hughes 2372629

Periodic
Assay

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Dear Client:

We are happy to inform you that we will soon be implementing a new time-keeping system for our employees which will replace the paper timesheets we now use. Using the new system, called **Santrax**, your Home Care Provider will simply take a few seconds to call a toll-free number from your telephone when they first arrive at your home, then again when they are ready to leave for the day. The system will then automatically track your Home Care Provider's hours.

We are very excited about this system, and believe it has several benefits for you:

- **Santrax** will let us know within a few minutes if your Home Care Provider did not arrive on time, allowing us to begin finding a replacement to serve you right away.
- **Santrax** will keep track of hours worked day-by-day, so it will eliminate the difficulty of remembering what hours your Home Care Provider worked 5, 10 or 15 days in the past.
- **Santrax** will monitor your Home Care Provider's hours throughout the month, so we can assure that you are receiving your full services every week.
- **Santrax** will allow our schedulers to focus more time on planning more efficient schedules and on responding to your calls and concerns more promptly.

We have studied this system very carefully to be sure that it will cause no inconvenience for any of our clients. The calls that the Home Care Providers will need to make at the beginning and end of each shift should take no more than a minute – they will simply punch in their employee code then hang up. In addition, the telephone number for the **system is toll-free**, and will not count against monthly call limits for those of you using LifeLine telephone service – **there is no cost to you at all**. Finally, the Santrax system will not diminish our ability to provide flexibility to your schedule for doctor appointments and such.

For all of these reasons, we believe the Santrax system replacing paper timesheets will be a great step forward in our continuing efforts to serve you with the highest standard of care.

Please assist us by permitting your Home Care Provider to make quick telephone calls into the **Santrax** system at the beginning and end of each shift. We plan to begin this system on **August 1, 2003**. If you have any questions, please call your Case Manager or Field Supervisor.

Thank you for your support!

Cordially,

Connie Revore

Connie Revore
Director of Programs

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Notebook "Why I Grew A Beard", etc., undated [199-?]

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